

# JOAN STOLPEN (NJ)



*Breaking Through*, encaustic on wood panel, 24 x 24 inches

As COVID-19 has spread across the world and affected our populations at rapid speed, it becomes impossible not to make parallels between the other looming global disaster that is upon us, climate change and global warming. To successfully combat both requires sweeping changes to life as we once we knew it. While many of the effects of climate change may still feel far off to some, COVID-19 has quickly highlighted the precarious nature of our world. My painting, *Breaking Through*, represents how this pandemic could be a breakthrough for larger environmental change. Blue has always represented hope to me. As the whole world comes together (by staying apart) to find a cure for this disease, we have seen a drop in greenhouse gas emissions worldwide. We will need to do more and get creative to fight off what is to come, but hopefully we are all finally and collectively paying attention.

*Artist Statement*  
Joan Stolpen